

## FINISHING OFF

Keep the equipment clean, you will find this less of a chore if you clean up regularly rather than wait until the end of the hire period.

When not in use, **store the equipment somewhere clean, dry and safe from thieves and unauthorised users**

Give the unit a final clean, ready for return to your local HSS Hire.



### ... have you been trained

The law requires that personnel using work equipment have received adequate training and must be competent when using the equipment within the workplace.

Training is available at HSS Training Solutions  
**0845 766 7799**

### ...any comments?

If you have any suggestions to enable us to improve the information within this guide please e-mail your comments or write to the Safety Guide Manager at the address below  
e-mail: [safety@hss.com](mailto:safety@hss.com)

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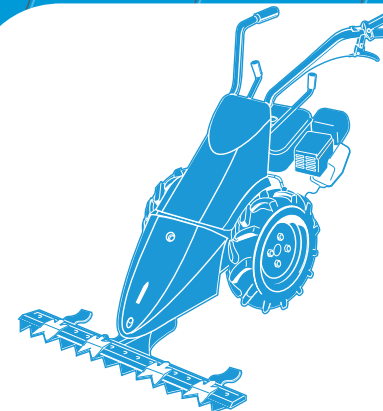
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384/01

## Operating & Safety Guide 384

# HSS Hire



## Power Scythe

**Easy to use and steer.**  
**Recommended for many applications**  
**including long grass, brambles, bracken.**  
**Able to work on slopes of up to 30**  
**degrees.**



Code 62146

## GENERAL SAFETY

**For advice on the safety and suitability of this equipment contact your local HSS Hire.**


**There is a serious risk of personal injury** if you do not follow all instructions laid down in this guide.

The hirer has a responsibility to **ensure that all necessary risk assessments have been completed** prior to the use of this equipment.


**This equipment should only be used by an operator who has been deemed competent to do so by his/her employer.**


**This equipment should be used by an able bodied, competent adult** who has read and understood these instructions. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability, should seek expert advice before using it.

**Keep children, animals and bystanders away from the work area.** Cordon off a NO GO area using either cones, barriers or tape, available for hire from your local HSS Hire.

 **Never use this equipment if you are ill, feeling tired, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.**

 **Safety goggles MUST be worn by everyone in the work area.**

 **This equipment generates potentially harmful noise levels.** To comply with health and safety at work regulations, ear defenders must be worn by everyone in the vicinity.

 **Wear practical, protective clothing, gloves and footwear that offers good grip.** Avoid loose garments and jewellery that could catch in moving parts, tie back long hair.

**Always** start the engine in the open air.

**Do not** smoke when refuelling.

**Do not** mix OIL with the petrol.

**Use only** unleaded petrol.

**Always** stop the engine before making any adjustments, refuelling, moving or cleaning, or when the unit is unattended

**Do not** remove any safety guards that are fitted.

**Do not** touch any moving parts or attempt any maintenance whilst the machine is running - **Keep hands and feet away.**

**Before** starting work clear the work area of any objects that could damage the machine.

**Know** how to stop the machine in an emergency.

**Never** interfere with any control settings on the engine

**If a fault** develops **do not** attempt any repair - immediately contact your local HSS Hire.

## Fuel Safety

**NEVER** refuel while the engine is hot or running.  
**NEVER** smoke or allow naked lights into the area when refuelling.

**ALWAYS** mop up spillages as quickly as possible.  
**Change your clothes if you spill fuel on yourself.**  
**ALWAYS** store fuel in an approved container, in a cool, safe place away from the work area.

## Exhaust Fumes

**NEVER** operate petrol engines indoors or in a confined space.  
**The exhaust contains gases that can kill.**

## Warning

**If any abnormal vibrations or sounds occur, STOP the engine immediately and check the machine and the cutter bar.**  
**If you have any concerns contact your local HSS Hire.**

## GETTING STARTED

**Familiarise yourself with the location of the control switches and levers so that you can operate them quickly in an emergency.**

Best results are obtained with the engine at a **low throttle** setting, which enables the bar to cut cleanly and gives less wear and tear on the reciprocating parts, which in turn reduces maintenance.

If you are working on a slope, **always work across the slope** never up or down.

On rough terrain, the bar should be raised by the **height adjuster skids** to prevent the blades from digging into the ground.

## STARTING ENGINE

**Check the engine oil level.** Top up with 10w/40 oil if necessary.

**Check fuel level.** Leave 25mm air space in the fuel tank. Depress the engine stop lever (the **red lever** on the handlebar) then pull in the clutch lever and secure with locking clip.

Ensure the wheel speed lever is in **neutral 'O' position**. Apply **half throttle** (the lever on the right handlebar).

**Turn the fuel tap to 'on' position, if the engine is cold set the choke lever to 'on' position.**

Pull the recoil start **handle gently** until it engages then give it a good **strong pull** to start the engine. When the engine has started, release the choke lever after a few seconds and return the **throttle lever to idle position.**

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

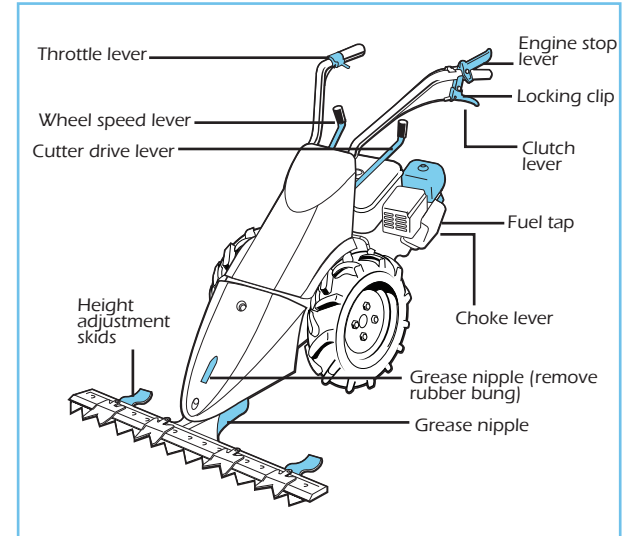
With the engine at **idle speed**, pull the clutch lever up to the handlebar - this will automatically release the locking clip and keep the **red stop lever depressed** as the engine will **stop if it is released.**

Select forward speed by using the **Wheel speed lever.**

Engage the cutter bar by using the **Cutter drive lever.**

Raise the throttle slightly, release the **Clutch lever** gently and commence mowing.

**Do not** exceed 1/4 throttle when the cutter bar is operating.



## EQUIPMENT CARE

**Never push the equipment beyond its design limits.** If it will not do what you want with reasonable ease or within the time required, assume you have the wrong size or type of equipment for the job. Ask at your local HSS Hire for advice. **Keep the engine upright at all times.** If it should get tipped over, **mop up oil and fuel spillages** and contact your nearest HSS Hire for advice before re-using.

**Regularly check the fuel level** and top up as necessary using unleaded petrol. **Check the engine oil level daily.** Having let the engine cool, **stand it on level ground, withdraw the dipstick and wipe clean.**

Now, **replace the dipstick**, withdraw it a second time and verify that the oil level is between the Min and Max lines.

Top up as required. **Switch the unit OFF.** Wash down and **re-oil the sliding parts and lubricate grease nipples (where fitted).** Use an old paintbrush to smear grease over the cutter blades.

**When not in use:** After cleaning the machine always **leave the clutch lever pulled in and secured with the locking clip.** This will prevent the clutch plates sticking.